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AGO D/A ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO D/A ltr 29 Apr 1980

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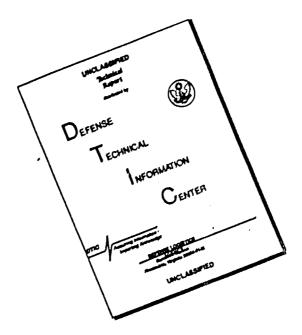
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AD 50026

# OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



IN REPLY REFER TO

(26 Feb 69) AGAM-P (M)

FOR OT UT 684162

6 March 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1968 (U)

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KENNETH G. WICKHAM

Major General, USA The Adjutant General

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate Senefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and inay be adapted for use in developing training material.

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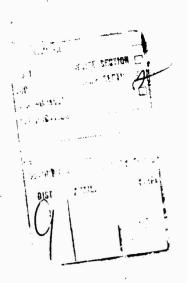
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1907-47-684162

- 1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.
  - a, (C) General.
- (1) Mission. The mission of the 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry is to perform reconnaissance and to provide security for the division or its major subordinate combat elements; to engage in combat as an economy of force unit, and to provide limited air and ground anti-tank defense for the division. When directed by IFFV, the squadron may detach one or more troops to support other major combat elements in the II Corps tactical zone.
- (2) Organizational Structure. The Headquarters, 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry is located at Camp Enari, Dragon Mountain RVN and is commanded by LTC Robert M. Reuter. The squadron has its full complement of cavalry troops as per TOE 17-95T. (Inclosure I reflects the organizational structure of the squadron and assigned troops.)
- (a) Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Camp Enari, Dragon Mountain RVN is equipped with four UH-1H helicopters and one U-6A fixed wing.
- (b) A Troop Air Cavalry, Camp Enari, Dragon Mountain RVN is equipped with AH-1G, OH-6A, and UH-1H helicopters. The 568th TC Det and the 288th Sig Det support this air cavalry troop.
- (c) B Troop Air Cavalry, Phan Thiet RVN is equipped with AH-1G, OH-6A, and UH-1H helicopters. The 569th TC Det and the 414th Sig Det support this air cavalry troop.
- (d) C Troop Air Cavalry, Camp Enari, Dragon Mountain RVN is equipped with AH-1G, OH-6A, and UH-1H helicopters. The 412th TC Det and the 238th Sig Det support this air cavalry troop. Prior to 24 October the 40th TC Dett was in support, of C Property.

FOR CT UT 684162

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10

Inclosure /// ()( = , 5 )

1

AVOD-G. SUBJECT: 10 November 1968 17th Air Cavalry for

Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Savalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968; NOS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

10 D Troop Cavalry, Camp Enami, Dragon Mountain RVN.

in the organizational absultance of Troop which had formed and deployed from Fort Campbell, Kentucky on 15 July 1968, became operational 1 September 1968. The 112th TC Det which formed and deployed from Fort Benning, Georgia arrived here of 2h October 1968. Additionally, the 230th Sig Det which formed and deployed from Fort Campbell, Kentucky arrived here in October 1968.

#### b. (C) Personnel.

4 · (1) Awards Data. The following awards were received by personnel of the 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry:

AWARD	AUG	SEP	OCT
nec	••	1	cas
es	2	2	3
DFC	-	2	6
BS w/V	8	1	6
BS	1.7	6	8
V <sub>W</sub> MA	5	4	4
AM	74	55	15
ACM	2.9	12	13
PH	1	16	•
LATOT	126	99	55

- (2) Change in key staff personnel and commanders:
- (a) Squadron Commander 15 Sep 1968 LTC Robert M. Reuter 070225 vice LTC Stephen F. Cameron 062328
- (b) Squadron Executive Officer 20 Sep 1968
  MAJ Scett T. Lyman 01937913
  vice
  ITC James D. Marett 04023646

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- (c) Squadron S-1 5 Sep 1968
  MAJ William B. Wilder 085936
  vice
  CPT Lawrence R. Kenyon 05312030
- (d) Squadren S-2 16 Oct 1968 CPT Michael W. Hodge 05240768 vice MAJ Robert A. Herford 076209
- (e) Squadron S-3 9 Sep 1958

  MAJ Richard H. Marshall 081697

  vice

  MAJ Richard H. Marden 067133
- (f) Squadron S-i; 7 Oct 1968 CPT Paul M. Roberts C5328628 vice MAJ John E. Smith 05513260
- (g) Headquarters Troop Commander I, Sep 1968
  MAJ Willard D. Conklin 079567
  vice
  MAJ William B. Wilder 086936
- (h) A Troop Commander 31 Aug 1968
  MAJ William T. Glover 02291585
  vice
  MAJ Richard V. Doty 0F110656
- (1) B Troop Commander 2 Sep 1968
  MAJ James A. McCracken 05301776
  vice
  MAJ James E. Longhoffer 0F105741
- (j) D Troop Commander 6 Oct 1968 CPT David M. Hennessy 05240766 vice CPT Anthony X. Hoyer 05321571
- (k) Squadron Chaplain 26 Oct 1968 CFT (CH) Clarence M. Brooks 02332837 vice CFT (CH) Raymond A. Young 02329187
- (1) Squadron Flight Surgeon 3 Oct 1968 CPT David Wallack 05251052 vice CPT Barry L. Kellogg

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

#### (3) Strength Figures:

#### (a) Military:

SUBORDINATE	OFFI			WO		M A:		TAL
Unit	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
ннт	23	20	7	7	181	183	211	201
A TRP	18	20	30	29	121	113	269	162
B TRP	3£	19	30	27	121	117	169	163
C TRP	18	16	30	27	121	112	169	155
D TRP	5	5	0	0	127	120	132	1.25
558 TC DET	1	1	l	1	54	55	56	57
288 SIG DET	0	0	1	1	.5	5	6	6
569 TC DET	1	3.	1	1	54	55	56	57
hill sig det	0	0	1	1	.5	.5	6	6
412 TC DET	1	1.	. 1	1	54	52	56	54
238 SIG DET	0	0	1	1	.5	. 5	6	. 6
40 TC DET	0	.1	0	0	68	1.7	. 68	48
TOTAL	85	84	103	96	916	869	1104	1040

#### (b) Civilian:

	D	AC	ΛN		3N	IARC	CONTRACT		
UNIT	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	0/H	HTUA	0/H	
HHT	0	0.	<u>l</u> ı	h	U	0	0	0	
A TRP	Ŏ	.0	12	8	Ō	Ö	Ō	Ŏ	
B TRP	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	
C TRP	0	0	18	7	Ò	0	0	0	
D TRP	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	
568 TC DET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
288 SIG DET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
569 TC DET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
414 SIG DET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
412 TC DET	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	
238 SIG DET	0	0	0	0	0	0	. 0	0	
ho to det	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	
Totals	0	0	710	25	0	0	0	0	

#### (4) Orders Published:

	DUA	SEP	CCT
SO	30	28	30
LO	167	133	173

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFCR-65 (RL) (U)

#### (5) Emergency Leaves:

AUG	SEP	CCT
4	14	8

#### (6) R&R Data:

	AUG	SEP	OCT
R&R Quotas Received R&R Quotas Used R&R Quotas Turned Back R&R Quotas No Show	60 60 0	43 43 0 2	56 56 0

#### (7) Breakdown of Branch (Officers): Period ending 31 October 1968

Artillery	7
Armor	5h
Infantry	13
Signal Corps	2
Transportation Corps	1;
Adjutant General	1
Chaplain	3.
Madical Corps	1
TOTAL	83
Warrant Officers	95
TOTAL	169

#### (8) Breakdown of Aviators (Officers by Grades):

ITC 1
NA 7 8
CPT 16
IIT 41
PIT 2
CW2 40
WO1 46

#### (9) Improcessed Personnel:

	Aug	SEP	OCT
OFF WO	6 20	10 6	7
EM	70	192	215

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

#### (10) Ontprocessed Personnel:

	AUG	SEP	OCT	TOTAL	
CFF	3	16	16	#5	
WO	2	6	23	31	
EM	73	96	178	347	

#### (11) Casualties:

	AUG	SEP	CCT
KIA	15	2	1
WIA		15	6

of the 36 WIA, 28 were returned to duty.

- c. (C) Intelligence. See Inclosure 2
- d. (C) Coerations.

#### (1) Results:

UNIT	SCRTIES FLOWN	/ EMESO NVA	T AKTA J J J A. VC	CTRUC Dan	eures Dest	SAMPA Dam D	ns est	PACYS CAPTURED
HIT A CIP B TRP C TRP D TPP TOTAL	613 9895 9254 5338  25100	0 17 7 32 23 72	3 14 0 7	0 9 10 16 0 35	151 276 134 0 561	0 0 0 0 0	0 1 1 1 0 3	0 6 10 63 0 79
UNIT	wpns caf ak	TURED OTHER	ARP INSERTED	REC: D FIRE		POWS		DAYS A/S EMPLOYED
HHT A TRP B TRP C TRP D TRP TCTAL	0 2 6 3 4 15	0 5 7 7 18 37	0 38 40 23 5	1 24 39 28 0 92		0 6 1 9 0	,	0 15 16 11 1 1

6 .

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STOJECT: Operational Econort of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, FICS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

#### (2) Losses:

	Unit		Adrera Typa	aft Lost Number		Aircraf Type	t D <sub>amaged</sub> Number	
	HET		9000	<b>600</b> File		<b>9</b> 140	(m m	
	A TRP		OH-CA	5		он-6а	2	
	3 TRP		он-6а	3			==	
	C TRP		0H-6 <b>A</b>	2		0H-6A UH-1H	1 2	
	7/17 CA	7	- он-6а	10		он-6л	3 2	
(3)	Operation	onal Statis	stics:			UH-1H	2	
Unit	COAT SORT.UES	OTHER SORTIES	AH-1G HOURS	OH-6A HOURS	UH-1C HOURS	UH-1H HOURS	TOTAL HOURS	
HET A TRP B TRP C TRP	522 8008 <b>7</b> 856 <b>51</b> 1,9	91 787 1398 189	1784 1842 1289	1587 1355 1500	214 205 2136	428 1515 1181 950	642 5091 4519 4175	
7/17 CAY	21535	5116Q	4915	111115	996	4074	<u> Ս</u> վ.27	

#### (h) Operations, Task Forces, and Units Supported:

#### MUNCHER OF DAYS

UNIT	OP MACARTHUR	ARVN	TF SPOILER	TF DRIGHT	173 ABN	TS SOUT
HHT	92	-	57	29 .	•	•
A TRP	92	4	57	29	1	-
D TRP	•	2		• .	21	71
C TRP	61	2	•	•	-	-
D TRP	92	1	57	2	•	<b>6</b> 18
D TRP 1/10 CAV	7 OPCON TO 7/1	7 CAV FOR	7 7 DAYS IN SE	7 P 68.	-	-

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- (a) Operation MacArthur is the 4th Infantry Division's general plan for battle in the central highlands Area of Operations (AO). There are currently 90 frag order changes to this operation. Wie operation began 32 October 1957.
- (b) Task Force Spoiler was conducted from 25 August to 25 October and consisted of the entire 2nd Brigade AO centered around the Ban Me Thout East area.
- (c) Task Force Bright operated from 10 September to 7 October and controlled all allied operations in the Duc Lap area.
- (d) Support of the 173rd Abn Bde consisted of providing reconnaissance for various air borne battalions in the An Khe area.
- (e) Support of TF South was provided by B-Troop in the Phan Thiet area since June 1966:
  - (5) Unit Moves:
- (a) On 31 Sept the RL team for B-Troop moved from Camp Enari to Qui M Mhon by convoy, by LST to Phan Rang, and then to Phan Thiet by convoy. The move was completed on 2 Oct 1968. The KD team made the same move on 15 Octo
- (b) A-Troop moved from Ban Me Thuot East starting on 25 Oct and closed base camp with all equipment 25 Oct.
- (c) D-Troop moved from IZ Schuler, north of Ban Me Thuot City, start-ing 25 Oct and closed base camp with all equipment 25 Oct 1968.

#### e. (C) Training

(1) The AARTS: 17th Cav made maximum utilization of all AARTS alloca∞ tions available. These schools proved to be extremely valuable and highly beneficial to the Squadron's maintenance program.

AU G	SEP	OCT
Ъ	3	6.

(2) NETT: Flechette NETT visited the Pleiku area and presented a series of lectures attended by the 17th Cav personnel. Three aviators were qualirated through the teams firing exercises. On 22 Oct 1968 the team: presented a briefing to headquarters staff and C Troop personnel at Enari; then the team was flown to Ban Me Thuot to present the same information to ArTroop, the Jump CP personnel and personnel from B Troop.

PARENTIAL

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SU BJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Encing 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- (3) Aviation Trainings
- (a) 1st Avn Bde IP/SIP

1 01~HA 0 1~HU 0H-6A 1

(b) Transition:

AH-10 7 OH-6A 1

- (c) AH-IG Armanent Main Course: 5
- (4) Special Training:
- (a) TAERS Training: 6 personnel were sent to Wha Trang to receive training in preparation of the material readiness reports, DA Form 2405.
- (b) M-16 Rifle: 3 personnel were sent to Nha Trang to receive maintenance training on the M-16 rifle.

#### f. (C) Logistics

- (a) Class I material drawn daily from 88th Stock Control for the entire Squadron. Rations are broken down daily in Squadron S-4 for the individual troops.
- (b) Class II is drawn on requisition from the 80th Stock Control Group in Qui Nhon.
- (c) Class III is handled in two parts, all packaged POL is requisitioned through 88th Stock Control on a normal requisition and held in the S-4 yard. Mogas and deisel are not handled by S-4. All JP-4 is requisitioned telephonically as needed.
  - (d) Glass IV support is provided by the 4th Inf Div.
- (a) Class V is requisitioned from 88th Stock Control and stored in a central ASP. Ammunition is supplied to the troops on request as needed.
  - (2) Aircraft Haintenance
  - (a) Maintenance Statistics:

	OH-6A	OF-HA	UH-IC	UH-1H
Aircraft Authorized	. 30	0	38	20
Aircraft Assigned	30 26	27	0	26
Average A/C per Troop	10	9	0	8

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10 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

	0н6а	AH-IG	UH-AC	UH1H
Availability Rate Percentage	60.9%	71.9%	0	84.5%
Norm Rate Percentage	25。1%	11,2%	0	9:2%
Nors Rate Percentage	ガ*0%	17.6%	0	6.3%

- \* 27 AH-10 Helicopters were issued in lieu of 27 UH-1C aircraft.
- \* 6 UH-1H Models have been issued in liou of 6 UH-1C model aircraft.
- (a) This squadronchas now turned in all UH-IC aircraft and but been able to convert all UH-IT aircraft to the T-53-L-13 Engine. This has enabled this unit to eliminate ASL on UH-IC and the T-53-11 Engine. The ASL has been reduced by over 1000 line items.
- which has improved a maintenance stand-down program was initiated which has improved a maintenance posture of the Squadron. Under this program all aircraft receive intenance posture of the Squadron. Under maintenance. This has enabled the squadron of the squadron a week down time for to a minimum thus providing a minimum down time for periodical policy.
- (c) Each of the three air cavalry troops have a KD maintenance detachment attached. This gives each air cavalry troop DS capabilities on station. The Troops and KD Detachments have been combined thus providing a maintenance platoen controlled and commanded by the KD Detachment Commander. This has proved to be the best concept of operation for an effective maintenance program.

(A) The following is a breakdown of aircraft by troop:

	ια	THE	TOTTOMTHE TO G	DI COUNTONI OF COTTON	DJ UL COPE	
	<b>Vr</b>		OH-6A	AH-·lG	UH-1C	UH-1H
			AUTIT/OH	AUTH/OH	AUTH/OH	AUT'H/OH
Ha	Trp		0,0	0/0	5/0	2/4
	Trp		10/8	0/9	11/0	6/8
	_			0/9	11/0	6/7
	_		10/9	0/9	11/0	6/7
B	Trp Trp		10/9	0/9	11/0	6/7

#### Shortages:

Нq	Try	3UH1H	
A	Tm	2-0H-6A	
В	Trp	1-0H-6A,	
C	Tren	1-OH-6A.	1-UH-IH

g. (U) Organization. See enclosure 1

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

#### h. (U) Civic Action

- (1) General: During this period in the village of Plei-Do, located at coordinates AR 813 436, the CA team built a school, fences for cows, horses and pigs. Also 74 rice storage buildings were repaired and relocated to the center of the village. A store where Montagnards could sell native products was built near the main road going from Camp Enari to Pleiku. In the village of Plei-Ho Lang located at coordinates AR 774 430, a dispensary and a storage house were built.
- (2) Operation and Training Activities: With the help of the people living in the village of Plei-Do, a school was built for 60 children of school age. A defense system, consisting of four rolls of concertina wire around the village of Plei Do, a moat, and bunkers spaced every 20 feet, was built. The work on this defense system was done completely by the people of Plei-Do. Fences for cows and pens for pigs were built by the CA team with help from the villagers. A store for the Montagnards was built by the people of Plei-Do. A series of fly-proof latrines were built in the village of Plei-Do to improve the sanitary conditions of the village. In the village of Plei-Do a dispensary was built with the aid of the village people. Cooperation on this project was almost 100% due to the advantages the villagers foresaw by having this dispensary. A storage house was built near the dispensary in Plei-Do. The people of Plei-Do were vaccinated for smallpox in the month of September; additional vaccinations for the people of both villages is underway.
- (3) Logistics: The majority of the building materials came from the 7/17 Cav S-4.
- (4) Civil Affairs: The following is a list of projects executed during this quarter:
  - (a) School Constructed (1)
  - (b) Dispensary Constructed (1)
  - (c) Storage Area Constructed (1)
  - (d) Store Constructed (1)
  - (e) Latrines Constructed (5)
  - (f) Cow Fences Constructed (11)
  - (g) Pig Pens Constructed (8)
  - (h) Rice Storage buildings Relocated (74)

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS XSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- (i) Bunkers Constructed (37)
- (j) Perimeter defense Reinforced (1)
- (k) Bulletin Board Installed (1)
- (1) Wells Dug (4)

#### i. (0) Message Center Statistics

Dicom	DIG ,	OUTGOING	· ·	TOTAL
TTY	COURLER	TTY	COUNTER	004
AUG 261 SEP 230	373 369	69 1.03	101 84	805 586
OCT 251.	264	26i <sub>4</sub>	75	855
TOTAL	1548	697		2245

#### Precedence and Classification

INCOLI	7!G		OUTGOING		TOTAL
CLASSIFIEL	UNIC	LASS	CLASSIFIED	UNICIASS	
Immediate	4:59	235	F57	98	1223
Priority	75	21,1,	25	105	457.
Routine	262	263	30	:.3	571
TOTAL	15	548	697.		2295

j, (V) Surge	on Dispe	ensary Stat	istics	
	AUG	SEP	OCT	TOTAL
PAMIENTS	639	664	1,82	1785
<b>THRUMIZATIONS</b>	167	233	11,51	1851

#### k. (U) Accident Prevention

- (?) The accident rate (per 100,000 flight hours) was 19.81. The following causes are cited?
  - (a) Aug: No accidents.
  - (b) Sep: Two accidents (rate 39,22).
- 1. 12 Sep 68, OH-6A major: Engine stopped during practice forced landing.
- a. Left throttle can be rotated beyond Alight idle position on many OH-OA aircraft causing fuel starvation and failure.
  - b. IP not properly qualified to instruct in OH-6A.
  - c. IP not current in autoroations to the ground.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadren, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- 2. 16 Sep 68, UH-1H, minor: Tail roter strike in POL.
- a. Pilot used improper procedures for lift-off and departure.
- b. Gunner/CE did not clear mircraft prior to maneuver.
- (c) Oct: One accident, CH-6A, major: Aircraft spun to right after downwind pedal turn to right.
- 1. Pilot used improper procedure in making right pedal turn in down-wind condition.
- 2. Pilot applied improper corrective action in autorotating from 35' hover.

#### Accident Rate Statistics

MONTH.	TOTAL FLYING HOURS	NUMBER ACCIDENTS	RATE
Aug Sep Oct TOTAL Per 1000,000 flvi	14830 5098 149142 111,070	0 2 <u>1</u> 3	0 39,22 20,23 19,81

#### 1. (U) Religious Activities

(2)	Religious Activities	No. of Services	Attendance
(e)·	Protestant	31	682
(b)	Catholic	27	455
(c)	Memorial	2	220

# 2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Chaervations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

- a. (C) Personnels
- (1) (C) ROTATIONAL HUMP (DEROS):
- (a) Observation: The Squadron experienced a hump in all three (3) months during this reporting period and at present has Deros humps during the months of January, June, July, and October 1969.

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- (b) EVALUATION. The rotational humps were caused by infusion of 7/1st Cav personnel who rotate 31 January 1969, newly attached KD teams in June, assignment of new C Troop in July, and the influx of replacements in October plus a new AD Team for C Troop. In addition, the departure of numerous key personnel who brought the 7/17th Cav into HVN in October 1967.
  - (c) RECOMMENDATION.
  - 1. That units do not infuse massively with other units.
- 2. That replacements be assigned to units at a gradual pace, i.e. 15 per month for 3 months versus 45 at one time.
- 3. Units centinue to infuse within squadron and then request outside assistance for that remaining,
- 4. Utilize the 40th TC Det, which is being deactivated, to absorb some aviation related MOS to reduce humps.
  - (2) Shortages in Critical MOS.
  - (a) OBSERVATION. A shortage of llDscries MOS.
- (b) EVALUATION. A shortage of 22 llDseries MCS existed in the squadron. This shortage is taken up by other 11 series MOS, i.e. overstrength of 28 in 11B MOS.
- (c) RECORENDATION. That squadren continue to cross train 11B series MOS and change MOS after 60-90 day period, and that in the future, proper number of specific MOS be requistioned based on projected losses.
  - b, (C) Operations,
  - (3) Air Cavalry Raid, and Cordon and Search Operations.
- (a) ORSENVATION. Raids and cordon and search operations must be organized and executed in minimum time to be effective.
- (b) EVALUATION. It has been found that the most successful raids and cordon and search operations have been conducted when planning and execution require less than one hour. This planning figure can be accomplished if an SOP is established, coordination in a new area is implemented to include all intelligence agencies to include national police, military intelligence, aviation support units, med-evac, artillery, tactical air, and the S-5 of the supported unit. The operation should be given a standard operational name, i.e. (Operation SLMM). The command and control unit then calls the units involved and states 'Operation SLAM', location of action, radio frequency of control element, and time of action. The requirement for planning and coordination has been accomplished, therefore all units move to predetermined locations for execution.

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- (c) RECCAL DATEON.
- That all air cavalry units establish SOPs on raid and cordon and search operations. In addition, when an air cavalry unit enters a new area of operation, immediate coordination should be made with all interested units, to include exchange of SCP, the radio frequencies, and telephone numbers. The stable of the
- 2. That recommended improvements to this operation be submitted in future ORIL.
  - (2) Cavalry Employment of CS Ges
- (a) OBSERVATION. The aerial employment of CS gas from E158R2 canister clusters is an effective technique to develop the situation and permit the destruction of enemy equipment and personnel.
- (b) EVALUATION. The following is one method of employment for the E158R2 CS canister cluster. The Command and Control (C&C) aircraft carries four canisters and a representative from the supported Chemical Detachment. When the area has been selected the C&C aircraft makes one or two CS passes. Initial guidance for aerial delivery was 65K from 1000-1200 feet altitude; however, experience indicates that at 50-55K and from 1000-1500 feet altitude achieves greater target coverage. The passes are made into the wind and after a very few drops the pilot can find a good "sight picture" and become accurate. It is imperative that armed helicopters are in firing positions behind the C&C ship as the enemy has fired at the gas dispensing aircraft regularly. The C&C aircraft will call his break. Generally after one orbit of the area to ascertain the degree of gas dispersion, the target can be struck by the armed helicopters, tactical air or artillery. The area can be reentered about 10 minutes after the sprikes begin for a damage assessment.
- 1. There are two methods for determining the area to be attacked. If the scouts draw fire during the reconnaissance of an area, the enemy is then positively located and the armed helicopters make a quick firing pass to insure the scouts can clear the area. The C&C then begins the gas run. When the scouts are unable to locate the enemy positively by visual sighting or by receiving fire, the same gas technique can be employed, if enemy activity is suspected of indicated.
- 2. After a gas and armed helicopter strike the situation can be developed easily. The enemy forces have been disturbed from their positions by both the gas and fire and the possibility of detection is greatly increased by enemy movement or anti-eircraft fire.
- 3. This same employment technique for CS gas can be used to get the enemy forces out of fox holes or bunkers and to confuse them long enough to call in an air strike.

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- 4. Special consideration must be given to the use of gas. First, during mission planning, all helicopter crews and any ground reaction force must be briefed to carry protective masks for that operation. Secondly, the FAC must be advised that the area has been gassed.
- 5. No after action reports, damage assessment, or body count has been thus far obtained after the use of gas. This technique was used several times in the DAK TO area during poor weather conditions and late in the afternoon. No ground forces were able to sweep the area, and only a limited aerial reconnaissance was accomplished. This same technique is currently being employed in the DUC CO area and results should be forthcoming.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION. That other aviation units consider the employment of CS gas and armed helicopters in their regular operations.
  - (3) 2.75" Rocket System for OH-6A Reconnaissance Scout Helicopter
- (a) OBSERVATION. During the months of August and September 1968, B Trp 7/17 Air Cav was assigned the testing and evaluation of a new 4 pod 2.75" rocket system for the OH-6A.
- (b) EVALUATION. It was determined that the system proved to be surprisingly accurate and very effective in marking targets from operational altitude. The role of the LOH scout in Vietnam requires low-level and low airspeed reconnaissance, with maximum exposure to hostile fire. On occasions, heavy enemy contact has prevented the scout from maintaining close visual observation of the hostile force. Employment of the LOH rocket marking system proved to be invaluable in directing armed helicopter fire and air strikes on the enemy positions.
- (c) RECOMMENDATIONS. That the 2.75" rocket system for the OH-6A be adapted for use in all air cav squadrons.
  - (4) (C) Lack of Protection of the M151 1/2 Ton Truck
- (a) OBSERVATION. The M151 & Ton does not provide the protection or maneuver capability of the M113 APC in the central highlands.
- (b) EVALUATION. During several recent operations in the Ban Me Thuot area D 7/17 Air Cav equipped with M151 'Jeep' and A/1/10 Cav equipped with M113 APC's were employed together. While proceeding to a blocking position the column was ambushed by an estimated NVA company sized force. The D/7/17 Cav elements were not in the killing zone, but were receiving intense small arms fire and fragmentation. The A/1/10 Cav commander instructed the jeep mounted force to pull back when the APC's began receiving 57mm recoilless fire. The APC's, due to their armor protection, were able to withstand the small arms and recoilless rifle fire and remain in contact. Shortly, the APC's withdraw and gunships from A/7/17 Cav can begin making runs and calling in air strikes. Again the APC's were able to remain within 75mm of the enemy and to maintain contact with the hostile force during breaks in the aerial strikes. The D/7/17 elements were forced to pull back 200 meters from the area of contact to avoid the air strikes.

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During similar sweep operations D/7/17 Cav found it was almost impossible to over come the natural obstacles present in the central highlands. Many missions were aborted, or delayed, due to the M151 jeeps getting stuck in river beds, on stumps and having mechanical failure such as ruptured radiators, flat tires, and over heated engines. Veteran cavalry NCO's from Europe maintain that 90% of these delays, mechanical failures, and limited capabianities of the unit could have been overcome by the employment of APC's Curbintly the Squadrom 1s drafting MTOE changes to obtain APC's for the assigned Cavalry Troop.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That all Cavalry Units located in the central highlands have APC's approved for issue in lieu of the MI51 % Ton Truck.

#### (5) NVA Unit Tactics

- (a) OBSERVATION. The NVA seem to gather in large groups at approximately 1500 hours to 1630 hours each day.
- (b) EVALUATION. It has been noted that on numerous occasions during this quarter, the enemy has been assembled in large groups, normally on high ground, between the hours of 1500 and 1630. It has been determined that these groups are gathered together for polictical meetings and coordination. Gun ships and TAC air have been employed upon these groups with favorable results.
- (c) RECOM ENDATION. That added emphasis be given to 1500-1630 hours reconnaissance within area of operation to detect, confuse, and destroy the enemy.

#### (6) NVA Small Unit Tactics

- (a) OBSERVATION. The enemy has been departing Villages at approximately 0500-0600 hours, moving on trails because of darkness and to increase speed of movement.
- (b) EVALUATION. Aero Scouts have been able to detect the enemy and his direction of movement from villages that have been used by the enemy for night locations. It has been determined that the enemy departs the village one (1) hour prior to daylight in order to avoid contact within the village. He uses trails leading from the village to increase speed of movement. First light reconnaissance flights can detect the direction of enemy movement, allowing maximum daylight to defeat the enemy with all available fires and maneuver.

#### (c) RECOMMENDATION:

In That recon units apply the first light technique with emphasis on trails leading out of enemy night locations.

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2. All units consider establishing night ambush sites some distance from villages along obvious enemy routes of withdrawal.

#### c. (U) Training.

#### Conversion from old Di. Form 759 to New DA Form 759 and 759-1.

- (1) OBSERVACION. On 1 July 1966 the new DA Forms 759 and 759-1, (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate-Army), were to be in effect. Due to poor distribution of forms and regulations in RVI these forms have not been received.
- (2) EVALUATION. There have been many instances where aviators reported to this unit having the new forms already in effect in their records. Thus requires reverting to the old forms, in itself complicated, with the possibility of losing valuable information in the transfer. Also the supply of the old DA Form 759 is almost exhausted. The old and new forms are on emergency requisition but this unit has no proposed receipt date for the new forms.
- (3) RECG. REDATICE. That when a new system is instituted all units be issued the required forms prior to the establishment of the new system.

#### d. (C) Intelligence.

#### Local Force (Indigenous) Intelligence Sources.

- (1) CHONNITION. The use of Local Force (Indigenous) Intelligence sources supplies timely and valuable information.
- (2) EVALUATION. In October the 7/17 Cav was organized into a Task Force in support of operation McArthur in the Ban He Thout area. Upon initiating operations, the squadron Co, S-3, and squadron Liason Officer made centact with the Darlac indigenous intelligence sources. Using all resources supplied in the Darlac area to include the 4th Div MI as 4 the Ban Me Thout National Police, the squadron completed several successful search and cordon missions, resulting an valuable information concerning enemy status. This was the first time use of local force intelligence sources had been used by the squadron. The cooperation between the indigenous personnel and 7/17 Cav resulted in receiving information only hours old and permitted immediate reaction to the enemy situation on the same day information was reported. This method, in addition to locating and destroying enemy personnel and equipment, provides the intelligence source an opportunity to test the accuracy of their agents.
- (3) RECONTROLLED THAT All Air Cavalry Squadrons establish contact immediately upon entering a new AO with Local Force (Indigenous) Intelligence sources.

SuBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Portod Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSrOm-65 (R1) (V)

#### e. (U) Logistics.

#### CIr Operations.

- (1) OBGENARTHUE. Current procedures require incoming personnel to process through the 22nd and 90th Replacement Battalians thereby receiving specified items of organizational clothing and equipment from respective central issue facilities.
- (2) MVALLATION. The non receipt of complete issues of those items specified in letter AVGD-G-k, Headquarters USAAV, Subject: Establishment of Central Issue Facilities, dated 21 August 1964, creates difficulties in providing similar missing items to individuals reporting to assigned units.
- (3) RECOMPLINDATION. That maximum effort be made to provide individual processing through replacement battalions with those items which have been established for issue at that point.
  - #3 (U) Organization. None.
  - g. (U) Safety.

#### Failure of Starter/Generator cooling fans.

- (1) OBSERVATION. Within a two-month period two precautionary landings were necessivated by failure of the starter generator colling fan on the UK-LH mounting the 300 amp unit.
- (2) EVALUATION. Both failures were of the disintegration type causing contamination of the engine oil supply. Research by squadron maintenance determined that the 300 amp unit has sufficient air flow for cooling without the cooling fan. Research by the accident prevention officer determined that failures of this type are common in UH-IH aircraft.
- (3) RECOMMENDATION. That all cooling fans be removed from UH-LH aircraft with 300 amp starter/generator units.

#### h. (V) Signal.

#### Avionics Mechanics Utilization,

- (1) OBSERVATION. The avionics mechanics (35K20) are part of the maintenance section of the headquarters Troop Communications Platoon. Each Air Cavalry Troop has one TOE 11-500 (RL) Team in direct support.
- (2) EVALUATION. The signal RL teams are organized to provide direct support maintenance of all avionics equipment organic to the Air Cavalry Troop. Because of the lack of direct contact between the maintenance section and the RL Team, the Detachment Commander of the RL team does not know the

AVGD-G 10 Nove) 2.1r 1966

StBJ:CT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadren, 17th Air Cavalre for Period andnng 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

status of the aircraft he is supporting. Cross training of personnel within the 35 MOS field is limited and the smintenance flow is interrupted.

(3) MCCOLLEDATION. Attach two 35K20 avionics mechanics to each of the RL teams. Divide the maintenance float and test equipment located within the maintenance section equally between the three RL teams. Advantages of this system are readily apparent in that the RL team is placed in direct contact with the aircraft which they support and personnel within the MCS 35 career field may be cross trained to provide increased efficiency.

#### i. (b) Civic Action.

#### Civic Afrairs.

- (1) OBSERV SIGH. The availability of indigenous help for CA projects varies during harvest seasons.
- (2) EVENTINE. The availability of the people to work on projects during the rice harvest season distinishes. These people, normally available, must harvest their own rice as their basic food source.
- (3) MACOLLET DATECH. Self help projects must be programmed around the known harvest seasons. US Army personnel should be detailed to assist in these projects considered to be of emergency nature only.

#### 3. Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

The Squadron has had no related experiences on escape and evasion or on survival. Whenever an aircraft as shot down there are generally at least 3 other aircraft present and the reaction force of the ARP is immediately launched. The downed crew rarely remains on the ground longer than an hour. Overhead gun cover is furnished by organic gunships.

Le Cil M. Teuter

LTC, AR Commanding

2 Incl: wd, Hq, DA
Intelligence for the period ending 31 October 1968

Organization Structure, 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry

#### DISTRIBUTION:

2 CINCUSARRAC, ATTI: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

3 CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

2 CG, 1st Avn Bde, ATTN: AVBA-NH, APO 96384

7 CO, 17th CAG, APTN: AVGD-SC, APO 96240

AVGD-SC (10 Nov 68) 1st Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U) The State of State of

DA, Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96240 25 November 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Viotnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

- 1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the basic letter from the 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry. Pen and ink corrections of minor errors have been inserted.
- 2. (C) This headquarters submits the following comments.
  - a. Section 1, Operations, pages 1 through 13: CONCUR.
  - b. Section 2, Lessons Learned.
- (1) Paragraph 2a(1), Rotational Hump, pages 13 and 14: CONCUR. This headquarters is infusing incoming personnel on a continuing basis into the squadron, and is transferring personnel with DEROS in hump months out of the squadron into other group units.
- (2) Paragraph 2a(2), Critical MOS Shortage, page 14: CONCUR. Brigade overassigned 11B MOS personnel to this group as OJT fill for 11D MOS shortages.
- (3) Paragraph 2b(1), Cordon and Search Operations, pages 14 and 15: CONCUR.
  - (4) Paragraph 2b(2), CS Gas Employment, pages 15 and 16: CONCUR.
  - (5) Paragraph 2b(3), OH-6A Rocket System, page 16: CONCUR.
- (6) Paragraph 2b(4), M151 Protection, pages 16 and 17: CCNCUR. Recommend consideration by 1st Aviation Brigade in development of standar-dized Air Cavalry Squadron MTOE.
  - (7) Paragraph 2b(5), NVA Unit Tactics, page 17: CONCUR.
  - (8) Paragraph 2b(6), NVA Small Unit Tactics, pages 17 and 18: CONCUR.
- (9) Paragraph 2c, DA Form 759, page 18: CONCUR. Only DA Forms 759-1 have been distributed to group units by the pinpoint system.
- (10) Paragraph 2d, Indigenuous Intelligence Sources, pages 18 and 19: CONCUR.

AVGD-SC (10 Nov 68) 1st Ind 25 November 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

- (11) Paragraph 20, Contral Issue Facilities, page 19: CONCUR.
  Other group units have reported similar discrepancies concerning action by central issue facilities.
- (12) Paragraph 2g, UH-1H Cooling Fans, page 19: CONCUR. Paragraph 52, TB 750-992-3, Equipment Improvement Report and Maintenance Digest, dated 1 August 1968, contains this recommendation.
- (13) Paragraph 2h, Avionics Mechanic Utilization, pages 19 and 20: CONCUR. Implementation of the recommendation insures maximum efficiency in employing organic avionics repairmen and equipment.
  - (14) Paragraph 2i, Civic Affairs, page 20: CONCUR.
  - c. Section 3, Survey Information, page 20: CONCUR.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOSEPH C. LE FLORE

1LT, AGC Adjutant

CF:

2 ACSFOR, DA, Washington, DC 20310

8 CO, 7/17th ACS

AVFA-GC-OT (10 Nov 68) 2d Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384

(U) This headquarters has evaluated subject report and concurs as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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AVBA-C (10 Nov 68) 3d Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

DEC 1 5 196c

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHCC-DST, APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

- 1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with the contents as indorsed.
- 2. (C) The following additional comments are considered pertinent:
- a. Paragraph lk(1), page 12 and Accident Rate Statistics, page 13. Accident rate for the three months should be 20.2 instead of 19.81. Computation is based on a total of 14,870 flying hours and 3 accidents rather than an average of the rates for August, September and October.
- b. Paragraph 2b(4), page 16. Substitution of armored personnel carriers for wheeled vehicles in the ground cavalry troop merits further investigation. This headquarters is currently conducting a MNOE study of air cavalry units and the subject of track vehicles for those units is being thoroughly evaluated. This study will include other vehicles that could be replaced by APC as well as the M151 2 ton truck.
- c. Paragraph 2g, page 19 and paragraph 2b(12), 1st Indorsement. Aircraft Maintenance Officer, HQ 34th General Support Group, states that his organization and AVCOM are studying the problem. No action as yet has been taken.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

John D MIXSELL

MAJ, ACC.

Ascistant Adjutant General

AVHGC-DST (10 Nov 68) 4th Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1968 from Headquarters, 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry.

#### 2. (C) Comments follow:

- a. Reference item concerning 2.75" rocket system for OH-6A reconnaissance scout helicopter, page 16, paragraph 2b(3): Concur with the results of the evaluation. An add-on evaluation is in progress at this time to determine an appropriate basis of issue for the system.
- b. Reference item concerning conversion from old DA Form 759 to new DA Form 759 and 759-1, page 18, paragraph 2c; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b(9): Concur. This headquarters requested on 30 October 1968 that DA take immediate action to alleviate this problem. DA Forms 759-1 are now being received by USARV units, but DA Forms 759 are still not available. The first shipment of these forms were due to arrive at USARV Publications Center in December 1968 and be forwarded to USARV.
- c. Reference item concerning CIF operations, page 19, paragraph 2e; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b(11): Concur. This headquarters is taking action to improve Central Issue Facility (CIF) operations.
- d. Reference item concerning failure of starter/generator cooling fans, page 19, paragraph 2g; 1st Indorsement, para 2b(12); and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2c: Concur with recommendation and the 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W. C. ARNTZ

CPT, AGC

Assistant Adjugant General

25

GPOP-DT (10 Nov 68) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 7th Armored Sqdn, 17th Air Cav
for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

4 FEB 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

- 1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.
- 2. Reference page 18, paragraph 2c; 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b(9); and 4th Indorsement, paragraph 2b, concerning DA Forms 759 and 759-1. The shortage of forms is recognized by this headquarters. During the period 18 September 1968 to 27 December 1968, the Printing and Publications Center, Kawasaki, Japan, shipped to USARV a total of 6,900 pads consisting of 345,000 sets of DA Form 759. During the period 4 September 1968 to 27 December 1968, the center shipped 5,000 pads consisting of 250,000 sets of DA Form 759-1. The current stock level of DA Form 759 is none, but the current stock level of DA Form 759-1 is 3,027 pads or 151,350 sets. All due-outs for DA Form 759 established as of 23 December 1968 have been released. However, subsequent requisitions received from USARV supply accounts exhausted stocks on hand and due-outs for DA Form 759 as of 27 December 1968 totaled 287 pads. These due-outs will be filled as soon as additional stocks are received from CONUS.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

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